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On the Hill



Child-Care Legislation Takes the Senate Floor

Child-care legislation continues to be a primary issue in the 101st Congress. On March 15, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee reported S. 5, the Act for Better Child Care Services, known as the "ABC" bill. In more Senate action, the Senate Finance Committee held hearings on child-care proposals on April 18 and 19.

At the April 18 hearing, Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), sponsor of the ABC bill, among many witnesses, testified in support of the "comprehensive" approach to child care in S. 5. Other witnesses, including Senator Pete

Domenici (R-NM), gave supporting testimony for the benefits of tax credits for child care, without the problems associated with administering a Federal child-care program.

A number of witnesses saw advantages in both tax credits and grant programs to improve the quality and supply of child care and urged that a mix of both be enacted. Testimony at the hearings represented a broad spectrum of thinking on child-care issues, from such groups as the Childrens Defense Fund, the Family Research Council, the National Governors Association, the American Public Welfare Association, and many others.

FNS programs, such as the Child Care Food Program, were mentioned only peripherally.

- Story by Robert Beard
Office of Governmental Affairs

Let's Jog Our Memories for the 20th Anniversary

As part of the celebration of our 20th Anniversary, the agency would like to display (and print in "The Friday Letter") some of the memorabilia many of us have collected over the years. If you have photos or any other artifacts (Buzzard Point Pins, anyone?) that show the people, places, and events in our history, please lend them to us to share with others.

Phyllis Weaver is collecting all these items. She is located in the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs - Room 510, phone 756-3052. We would appreciate your noting who, what, and when if you can



remember. Also, please identify to whom they belong, and we promise to return them. The deadline for your items is May 15.

- Story by Alberta Frost
Chairperson, FNS 20th Anniversary
Committee

Certificates of Merit are Awarded to Staff at Area Offices



Headquarters Compliance Branch Chief Bruce Clutter (top left) presents a certificate of merit to Olivia Robinson, Chicago compliance assistant, for her continued outstanding performance and to Wilbur Morrissey (bottom center), Indianapolis Compliance Branch investigator, for his outstanding performance. Also present at each ceremony was Chicago Compliance Branch Officer-in-Charge Art Frost.



-Photos by Mary Jane Getlinger
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

Headquarters Compliance Branch Assistant Chief Joe McLin presents certificates of merit to Compliance Officer-in-Charge Harry T. Foster, Jr., of the Memphis, Tennessee, Area Office and his investigative staff. From left to right are: Joe McLin, Harry Foster, Earnest Edwards, Harvey Knowles, Gail Bradley, Paul Leach, Willie Thomas, Andrew Jackson, Ervin Upchurch, and Fred Benton.



-Photo by Lillian Lewis
Memphis Area Office

**Join Us As We Celebrate
Asian Pacific American Heritage
Observance Day**

May 12

10 a.m. to noon

Administration Building

Patio

SERO Hosts Joint WIC/Financial Management Meeting

SERO Administrator Virgil Conrad welcomes state financial managers and WIC directors to a joint meeting recently held in Atlanta. Infant formula rebate issues and the intricacies of tracking rebate payments were addressed. Nearly 50 state representatives attended the 2-day meeting, which was described by participants as being "extremely beneficial" and "on target."



-Story and photo by
SERO Public Affairs Staff

GAO Gives FNS an "Unqualified Opinion" on Financial Statements

The General Accounting Office recently gave FNS a clean, unqualified audit opinion, the highest accolade a Federal agency can receive from an auditor, on its fiscal year 1987 financial statements. An unqualified opinion means that GAO's audit revealed no irregularities or weaknesses in FNS' accounts or system of management controls.

-Story by Larry Blim
Director, Accounting Division

FNS Releases Report on Effect of 1988 Drought

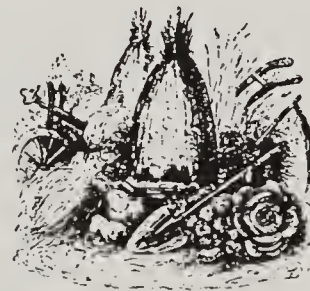
Last summer's drought--one of the worst of the century--captured national attention as newspapers and nightly newscasts reported below-normal rainfall and sharply reduced harvests in many parts of the country.

The severity of the drought raised some difficult questions. Would the smaller harvest lead to higher food prices? Would rapidly rising food prices strain the limited resources of low-income families who rely on Federal food assistance? If so, should USDA or

Congress take special action in response? Drought, Food Prices, and Food Assistance Programs, prepared and recently released by the Office of Analysis and Evaluation, offers some answers to these questions.

Surveying food prices as of December 1988, the congressionally mandated study concludes that food prices did increase faster during 1988 than they did the year before--rising 5.6 percent compared to 3.5 percent. But only a small portion (less than 15 percent) of the increase in food prices over the last half of the year could be traced to the drought.

A combination of factors dampened the drought's effects. These included the onset of late summer and early fall rains, the diversity of the U.S. food supply, the availability of stored crops carried over from previous years, and the relatively small contribution of farm prices to retail food prices.



As a result, while the report was able to identify some effects on participants, program features designed to

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Georgia WIC Director Honored



SERO WIC Director Nena Bratianu (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to departing Georgia WIC Director Doreleena Sammons. Sammons recently resigned as state WIC director to head up the AIDS program in New Jersey.

- Photo by SERO
Public Affairs Staff

Colorado Reinforces Dietary Guidelines

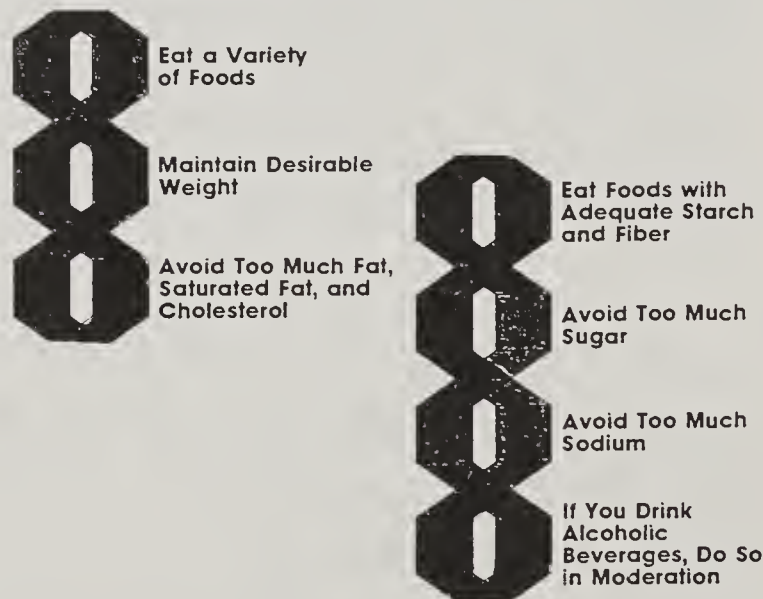
A 3-year-old program to improve nutrition awareness in Colorado's school lunch program is focusing this year on components of the dietary guidelines. The program originated in 1985 with Colorado's food service director and outspoken champion of the lunch program, Dan Wisotzkey. During the 1985-1986 school year, the Colorado Department of Education began developing monographs for its 15,000 classroom teachers on basic nutrition.

Distributed five times each year, the monographs have a twofold purpose, says editor Judy Schure, who is Colorado's Nutrition Education and Training (NET) coordinator. Schure says the leaflets contain information about nutrition education--with suggestions for backup resource and audio-visual materials--and also tie classroom education to the lunch program.

Initially, monographs were planned individually and covered such topics as the effects of hunger and malnutrition on classroom performance, growth-essential nutrients, choosing healthy snacks, hands-on activities to teach children about food choices, the science of food (including science experiments that can be eaten), and nutrition math (teaching volume and portion computations).

This year, the monographs have been planned around the dietary guidelines--particularly the reduction of salt, fat, and sugar. Resource materials have been solicited from such groups as the Tri-County Health Association, which provided input on low-sugar party snacks. Along with the Colorado Heart Association, the Department of Education will coordinate a campaign on "Heart Healthy Foods" with school cafeteria menus.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans



Department of Education professional staff reportedly get lots of positive feedback about the leaflets on field visits and at nutrition meetings. Requests for resource materials provide the best way of tracking the program's success, Schure says. Other states interested in developing NET-based monographs or newsletters for teachers may contact Schure at (303) 866-6661.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of February with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>Feb. 1988</u>	<u>Jan. 1989</u>	<u>Feb. 1989</u>	<u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>				
People participating (mil.)	18.9	18.8	18.8	
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	950.1	969.7	973.2	
Average bonus per person	\$ 50.27	\$ 51.61	\$ 51.68	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	1,050.6	1,074.0	1,077.6	
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	89.8	90.0	90.0	
Children participating (mil.)	24.2	24.0	24.1	
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.6	11.3	11.5	
Percentage of lunches served free	41.1	40.1	40.7	
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.7	6.8	6.8	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	378.1	384.4	365.0	
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>				
Number of schools participating (thous.)	38.7	40.1	40.1	
Children participating (mil.)	3.7	3.7	3.9	
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	87.4	85.9	86.6	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	51.2	52.0	50.1	
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>				
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	38.9	39.0	38.1	
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	29.0	32.9	32.0	
Percentage of all meals served free	78.4	79.0	78.9	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	51.4	56.9	55.6	
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>				
People participating (mil.)	3.5	4.0	4.0	
Food cost (\$ mil.)	119.1	124.6	120.5	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	148.2	155.9	156.9	
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>				
People participating (thous.)	213.3	225.6	222.8	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.3	4.0	3.9	
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>				
Number of projects in operation	107	108	108	
People participating (thous.)	140.8	142.0	142.3	
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.4	5.0	5.0	
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>				
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	53.9	16.2	17.4	

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of April 24, 1989.

3/ Includes data for all elderly participants.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-630	12/13	05/08/89	89-H-99	HNIS
o Food Program Officer	(FNS-N)	GM-0120	14	05/01/89	89-102	SERO
o Financial Management Specialist	(FNS-HQ)	GS-0501	12	05/10/89	89-103	ACD
o Systems Accountant	(G)	GS-0510	13	05/01/89	89-104	ACD
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	4/5/6	05/08/89	89-106	SFPD
o Management Analyst	(G)	GS-0343	5/7	05/08/89	89-107	IRMD
o Management Analyst	(A)	GS-0343	7	05/08/89	89-107A	IRMD
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	7	05/08/89	89-108	DAFM
o Secretary Typing	(G)	GS-0318	7	05/08/89	89-109	IRMD
o Nutritionist	(A)	GM-0630	14	05/15/89	89-H-110	HNIS

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
 DAFM - Deputy Administrator for Financial Management
 IRMD - Information Resources Management Division
 ACD - Accounting Division
 SERO - Southeast Regional Office (Atlanta, Georgia)
 SFPD - Supplemental Food Programs Division

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (HNIS) - Human Nutrition Information Service
 (FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)
 (FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service (Nationwide)

(Report Continued)

respond to changing food prices were adequate in the face of the drought-related increases seen during 1988.

Additional information and copies of the report can be obtained from Steven Carlson at FTS 756-3133.

-Story by Steven Carlson
 Analysis and Evaluation Staff

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

The Friday Letter is published every two weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone 756-3000.